

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINGST 02397 241234Z

51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-10 L-03 SP-02 PRS-01 /046 W

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R 241200Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8054

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JM, US

SUBJECT: FARM LABOR PROGRAM CRITICIZED

1. IN A REPORT ISSUED BY THE JAMAICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (JCC) THE FARM WORKERS SCHEME IN FLORIDA HAS BEEN COMPARED WITH SOME OF THE WORST ASPECTS OF SLAVERY. THE REPORT WAS ISSUED FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF A 3-MAN JCC TEAM TO FLORDIA TO INVESTIGATE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SOME 9,000 FARM WORKERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE JAMAICANS, LIVED AND WORKED IN FLORDIA.

2. THE REPORT FOCUSED ITS CRITICISM ON THE UNSANITARY AND CROWDED CONDITIONS IN THE WORKERS' CAMPS, PARTICULARLY THOSE PROVIDED BY THE MIRANDA COMPANY. IT CONCLUDED WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ACCEPT GREATER RESPONSIBILITY IN SECURING FAIR WAGES AND BETTER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE WRITING OF CONTRACTS.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, FOREIGN WORKERS, LIVING CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINGST02397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750219-0015
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750622/aaaaatnf.tel
Line Count: 46
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FARM LABOR PROGRAM CRITICIZED
TAGS: ELAB, SOCI, JM, US, JAMACAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006